

County of San Diego
Revised: August 26, 2002
Reviewed: Spring 2003

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER
SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

Class No. 005251
Class No. 005250

DEFINITION:

Performs psychiatric casework and psychotherapy services and provides case consultation concerning patient's status, diagnoses and treatment; and performs related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Psychiatric Social Worker: This is the first working level class in the Psychiatric Social Worker series. Under professional and clinical supervision, Psychiatric Social Workers perform progressively more responsible assignments gaining experience needed to obtain a clinical social workers license (LCSW).

Senior Psychiatric Social Worker: This is the fully experienced, licensed Psychiatric Social Worker class. Incumbents receive minimal supervision from a program manager and handle difficult caseloads of psychiatric patients.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Conducts psycho-social interviews; prepares social case histories; performs assessments and diagnoses and develops treatment plans; performs psychotherapy with individuals families, and groups; conducts crisis intervention; participates in case conferences with psychiatrists and clinical psychologists; interprets and explains to clients and family the social and emotional factors pertaining to mental illness and the methods of alleviating emotional and environmental problems; makes appropriate referrals; plans for discharge and community placement from in-patient status; documents case records and makes relevant reports; consults with community agencies on the identification and management of social and mental health issues; assists in developing, improving and implementing social and mental health programs and projects; makes oral presentations to the general public.

Senior Psychiatric Social Worker:

All of the duties listed above and: provides clinical supervision and training to lower level psychiatric social workers and students.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: P = Psychiatric Social Worker
SP = Senior Psychiatric Social Worker

Knowledge of:

P **SP**

T T Normal and abnormal emotional growth and development patterns.

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T	T	Psychological and behavioral dysfunctions occurring in mental disorder or in social disorganization.
T	T	Human sexuality.
T	T	Treatment modalities.
T	T	State child abuse reporting laws.
G	T	Diagnostic categories and evaluation techniques.
G	T	Behavior patterns related to illicit and prescribed psychotropic drugs and medications.
G	T	Behavior patterns related to common physical illnesses.
G	T	Dynamics of community organization.
G	T	Consultation techniques.
G	T	Cultural and socio-economic issues relevant to providing appropriate mental health services to special population groups.

Skills and Abilities to:

The following apply to both classes:

- Take a complex psychosocial history, make an assessment using current diagnostic procedures, and develop an appropriate treatment plan.
- Maintain records and prepare reports.
- Communicate effectively with clients, patients, family members, other professional staff and the public.
- Provide clinical supervision and training to subordinate staff and students.
- Develop and implement social and mental health projects and programs.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training, and/or experience which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Psychiatric Social Worker: A Master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, AND, 1) a social work graduate study field placement or internship in a mental health setting, OR; 2) one (1) year of professionally supervised experience in a mental health setting after obtaining MSW degree.

Senior Psychiatric Social Worker: A Master's degree from an accredited graduate school of social work, AND, at least two (2) years of post-graduate, professional experience in a mental health setting.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Senior Psychiatric Social Worker:

Candidates must be licensed by the State of California as a clinical social worker (LCSW) (66 Ops. Atty. Gen. 189 (1983) except as noted below.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

Working Conditions:

Occasional contact with abusive and physically violent patients and exposure to infectious disease. May be required to work evenings and/or weekends.

Background:

Applicants must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Convictions, depending on type, number, and recency may be disqualifying. Prior to appointment, candidates offered positions in Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) programs that deal with patients and/or drugs will be subject to a limited security clearance investigation performed by the HHSA.